

# Washington Massage

# NEWS



Wash. Chapter, American Association Masseurs & Masseuses

Editor Ruth Williams R.M.

Kennewick, Wash

June 1958

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Pete I Eitriem R.M.

A Progress Report To The Membership. I can think of two reasons for making this report in advance of our Seattle convention on June 6th and 7th. First. Those members who will attend the convention will have the opportunity to study the report at their leisure and be better prepared to contribute to our continued progress. Second. Those members who are unable to attend will become aware of the direction in which the State Chapter is traveling, and the progress it has made during the last two years.

Functions of officers and membership. The birth of all organizations usually follows a definite pattern. After the initial stage of organizing is over, the next step is usually the recruiting of members. This is always the most important step. An organization is powerless and futile with only a handful of members and no funds. The recruiting of members must never stop as long as there are people who are eligible for membership. There is safety in numbers. "We hang together or we hang separately" is an old expression that applies to all endeavors in a free and democratically organized society.

In order to expedite the continual quest for new members and the reinstatement of former members, an Organization and Membership Committee has been appointed since our last State Convention. This committee asks all present members to send in the names and addresses of non-members who are eligible for membership by having completed a course of study or training in a school of Massage.

The chairman of the committee is Arthur D. Mann, 14546 Whitman Ave., Seattle 33. I have agreed to serve on the Committee for the eastern half of the State. My name and address is Pete I. Eitriem, W. 828 Nora Ave., Spokane 17.

## Aims and Purposes.

It is self-evident that a professional organization must have a purpose for its existence, in addition to its social functions. In studying the records of the various State Chapters of A.A. M. M., we find that all of them have had the same objective. They have spent all of their efforts and energies in a drive to secure a State licensing law. Several reasons have been given for enacting such a law.

1. A license would theoretically give the Masseuse or Masseuse greater prestige.
2. All unqualified and all unethical persons would be denied a license and denied the right to practice Massage.
3. It was believed that a license would bestow legal protection.

Space does not permit me to give a complete analysis of the sad



and bitter experience of several State Chapters and the Masseurs now operation under licensing laws. The worst law of all is now in force in Minnesota, where the law is administered by the medical profession and where no more Masseurs or Masseuse can pass an examination nor obtain a license to practice. When those who obtained a license in 1928 have retired, Minnesota will have no Massage profession. The only hope for that State seems to be a supreme effort by the National A.A.M.M., to secure amendment or repeal of the law.

In explaining this tragedy to the last National Convention, President D. S. Carlson stated that the organized Massage law enacted in 1927. The law was administered by Masseurs and worked very well. Soon thereafter, the members of the Masseurs' organization ~~the~~ membership dwindled away and the organization went out of existence. Consequently, there was no organized opposition to the Medical men, in 1929, when they secured crippling amendments to the law and thereby took possession of it, as a means of destroying the profession of Massage, which they have succeeded in doing.

The lesson to be learned is crystal clear, and the masseurs and masseuses in our State of Washington must never forget it. Only a large, alert and well financed State Chapter and the ever-ready support of the National A.A.M.M. can safeguard the Massage profession in this State or any other State. We cannot afford to be divided by jealousies or personal ambitions or feuds.

Those non-members who read these lines, and who are qualified for membership, surely must realize that we need them and they need us. What other inducement do you demand in order to apply for membership? Is your livelihood not worth protecting?

#### Change of direction in 1956

Prior to 1956, Washington Chapter had introduced a Massage bill in two or three sessions of the Legislature, but failed to secure enactment of a licensing law. The matter came up for discussion at the State convention in Spokane in June of 1956. The convention voted to discontinue further attempts, pending action by a future convention. During the winter of 1957, John A Murray, who was then State President, took a sampling of opinion among the members thruout the State. He found a large majority of members opposed to a licensing law. John has the gratitude of many of us for this action. Acting in accordance with the wishes of the members contacted and with the ruling of the Convention, our Legislative committee did not introduce a bill. During the Legislative session, the committee was notified by our lobbyist that some unauthorized person or persons had introduced a bill. The committee acted promptly to prevent passage of the bill and were fortunately successful, which was probable a blessing in disguise, as the next sentence will reveal.

While in Olympia, the committee paid a call on the Department of Licenses and learned that the Masseurs and Masseuses in Washington have had the protection of a Massage law since 1906, and that no



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license is required by the State under this law. This means that Massage is legalized but not regulated or restricted by the State. What more can we ask? Is any practicing Masseuse or Masseuse unwilling to pay \$24.00 per year in dues, in defense of this law?

The foregoing developments have changed our Legislative direction. We are now defending a law against destructive amendments or outright repeal, instead of campaigning for the enactment of a new law. This does not lessen our danger, however, as Minnesota's experience has taught us. Other States, including Oregon, Arkansas, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Wisconsin have laws which severely hamper the practice of Massage. Only our efforts and vigilance, plus our dues, can offer any hope of survival in this struggle for freedom to practice as our schools have taught us, without any interference from our powerful competitors.

#### Efficient management and control.

When our present Sec'y-Treas., Ruth Williams assumed her duties at the beginning of the 1957-58 fiscal year she received a complete record of every financial transaction made during the previous year, together with a financial statement and balance sheet. Ruth will follow the same procedure. Our recent Executive Board meeting voted to make this procedure mandatory upon each succeeding Sec'y-Treas., in order to have continuing and permanent records. These records will be open to inspection by any paid-up member who wishes to inspect them in the presence of the Sec'y-Treas.

No organization can operate in a financially sound and efficient manner without some sort of control and supervision over the expenditure of money. Recognizing this fact, the 1957 convention in Kennewick authorized the State President to appoint a Budget Committee, which was assigned the responsibility of preparing an annual budget. This committee has carried out its duties. We are pleased to report that our Sec'y-Treas. has kept her expenditures below the figures authorized by the budget under which she operates. The 1958-59 budget will be presented for adoption by our convention.

#### Benefits and protection for members.

The last National Convention of A.A.M.M., voted to create a Legal Aid Fund in each State Chapter and a fund in the National. These funds are to be used for Legislative purposes and for the legal protection of any member who may be unjustly accused of unlawful practices. The State Chapter transfers \$3.00 from its share of each members's annual dues, into this fund. The National does likewise. These funds will continue to grow and will be available in and when an emergency arises. The administration and use of the State fund will be determined by our next convention in June.

Our State Chapter has, as you know, had a permanent Legislative Committee for the past several years. I have found this committee very efficient, alert and well informed. It is, in my opinion, indispensable. The committee members have given freely of their time and work, and have been extremely careful in the expenditure of



funds.

This committee has also secured the services of a very trustworthy lobbyist who is always on guard for us at the State Capitol when he is needed there. He did us a considerable service during the winter of 1957, and his services cost us next to nothing.

These services are the lifeline of our profession. I am confident that the future means more progress for the State Chapter and more benefits to its members.

Swan song.

During the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving as an officer in Washington Chapter, A.A.M.M., one year as Sec'y-Treas. and one year as President. My title of State President will be transferred to someone else by the members assembled at our Seattle Convention. During both terms in office, I have served with, and learned to respect, the finest officers, directors and committee members I have known in any organization of which I have been a member.

We, Masseurs and Masseuses everywhere, earn our daily bread by relieving pain and agony and desperation and despair. We ask only the right to continue pouring out our sweat and our compassion for those who need us. We face the future proudly, with our heads held high and our gaze untroubled, with confidence in ourselves and each other and faith in our God.

"He hath showed thee, Oman, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Micah 6:8

That should be made our motto. Can we afford to do less?

Respectfully submitted,

Pete I. Eitreim, R.M.

President, Wash. Chapter, A.A.M.M.

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THOUGHT FOR TO DAY:

A REALLY GREAT MEM IS KNOWN BY THREE SIGNS..... generosity in the design, humanity in the execution, moderation in success.-- BISMARCK.

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DON'T FORGET CONVENTION IN SEATTLE JUNE 6 & 7 , 1958

DON'T FAIL TO BE THERE!!



## CONVENTION INFORMATION

Washington State convention of the A.A.M.M. is to be held at the NEW WASHINGTON HOTEL on June 6 & 7, 1958 with registration to be started on thursday at 8 P.M. There will be a greeting committee there at that time.

Rates prevailing are:

NEW WASHINGTON	singles	\$5.00	Doubles	\$7.50 & \$9.50
ST. REGIS (across street)		3.00	"	3.50 twins 4.50
Stewart Hotel		4.00	"	5.50 " 6.00
Moore Hotel		4.00	"	5.50 " 6.00

These are all good hotels and the members can take their choice, but it is suggested that you send your reservation in to the hotel of your choice for Seattle is quite a convention town and you may have trouble to find a room otherwise.

Mannings and Von's are recommended for reasonable price, etc. The banquet of prime rib beef will be the only meal that the members will take together, other wise they may eat where and what they please.

There will be a registration fee, but I am not sure just how much yet.

There will be a nutritional talk by Layman Archibald and a Demonstration by Myrtle Mann on part of her massage technique.

Friday evening there will be a trip through th Washington Athletic Club conditioning departments for all of those who would like to go.

This promises to be a good convention and it is our duty to support it so get your bib and tucker on and gett rollin' to Seattle June 6, & 7, 1958.

AT THE

NEW WASHINGTON HOTEL  
IN

DOWN TOWN SEATTLE WASHINGTON

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NOTICE NOTICE

It is time for election again! Give this some very earnest thought before you go to convention and put the member in office who will serve you and the A.A.M.M. best. I would like to put in a plug for Pete I Eitriem. It has been a rare privilidge to work with Pete this year and I hope that you will see your way clear to keep him in office another year. He is clear thinking, level headed and honest, These are a must in the head of our wonderful A.A.M.M.

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ANOTHER THING! WONT YOU PLEASE FIND ANOTHER EDITOR! I'M SO TIRED OF READING WHAT I WRITE AND I KNOW YOU MUST BE TIRED OF IT TOO!